

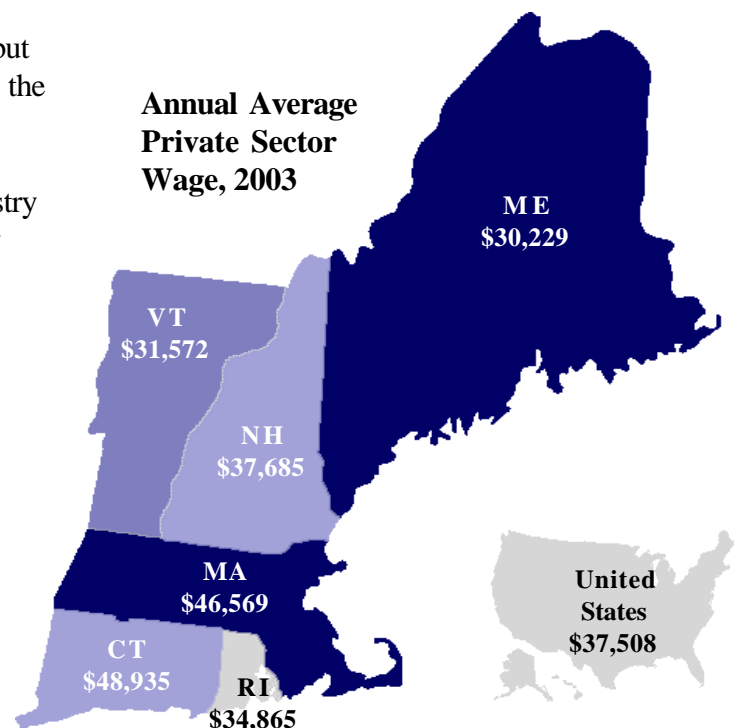
An Overview of Annual Average Private Sector Wages in Rhode Island, 2003

Rhode Island's private sector employed more than 407,700 workers in 2003 and paid over \$14.2 billion in wages. Private sector employees earned an annual average wage of \$34,865 in 2003. Although this represented a 4.9 percent (+\$1,639) over-the-year increase for Ocean State workers, it ranked as just the fourth highest average wage in New England and was below the national average of \$37,508. At \$48,935, Connecticut reported the highest annual average private sector wage in the northeast, more than \$11,000 higher than the United States average. Massachusetts' workers earned an average of \$46,569, followed by New Hampshire, whose annual average wage of \$37,685 was on par with the rest of the nation. Private industry in Vermont (\$31,572) and Maine (\$30,229) paid the lowest annual average wages in New England. The statewide private sector wages in Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine were all below the national average in 2003.

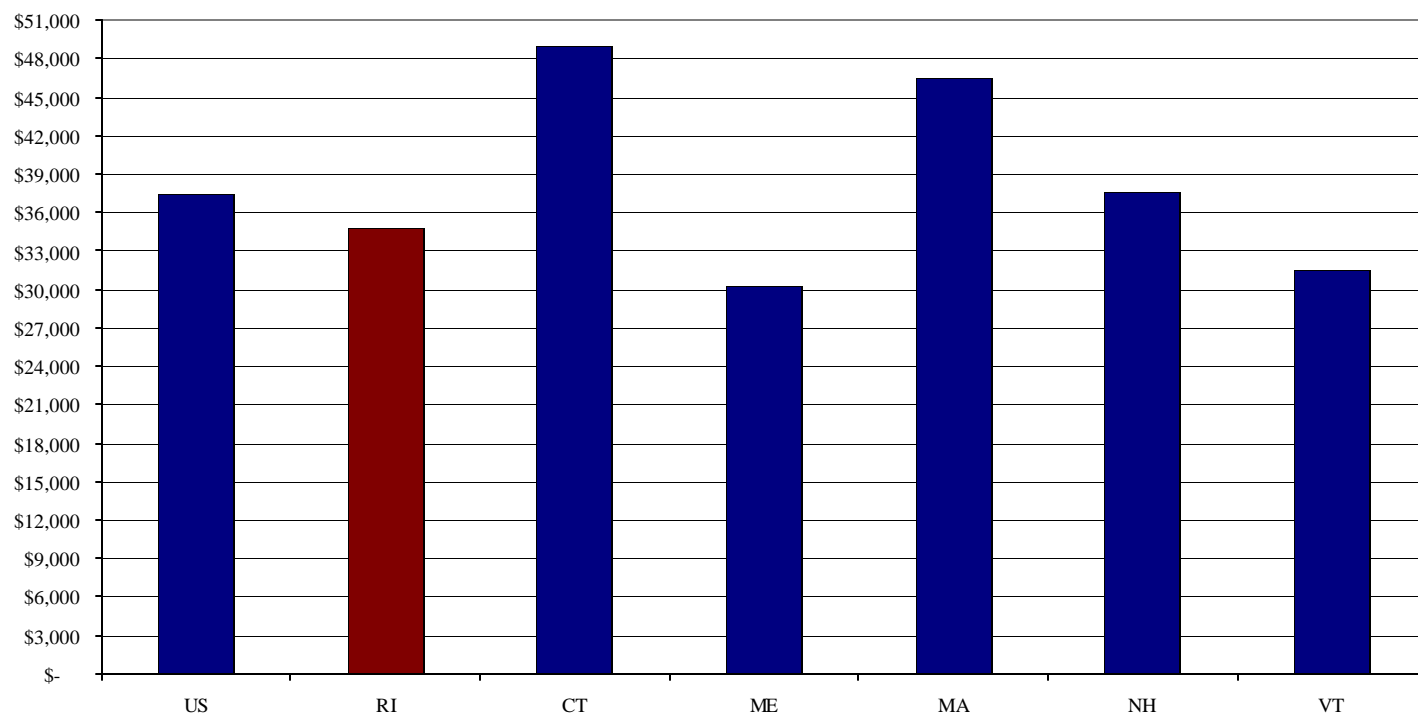
The highest paying industry sector in Rhode Island was Management of Companies & Enterprises, whose employees earned \$83,882 on average. The Utilities (\$70,206), Finance & Insurance (\$53,872), Information (\$52,781), and Professional & Technical Services (\$52,718) industry sectors also reported annual average wages well-above the state's private sector average. In comparison, Rhode Island's Accommodation & Food Services workers earned an average of just \$14,108 in 2003, followed by Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (\$20,563), Other Services (\$22,749), Administrative & Waste Services (\$23,041), and Retail Trade (\$23,845). Many of the industries in these sectors are seasonal in nature and rely on part-time and low-skilled labor.

Generally, annual average wages on the industry sector level were higher in neighboring Connecticut and Massachusetts, while private industry wages in Maine and Vermont lagged behind the Ocean State. There were some exceptions. For instance, Rhode Island reported the lowest annual average wage among the six New England states in both Manufacturing (\$39,152) and Administrative & Waste Services (\$23,041). In 2003, the Ocean State did not report the highest annual average wage in any of the eighteen industry sectors measured.

Rhode Islanders in several industry sectors earned annual average wages above the national average. For example, the state's Construction workers were paid \$43,480 on average in 2003, compared to the United States average of \$39,509. Similarly, Educational Services employees earned an average of \$34,418 nationwide, but \$37,097 here in the Ocean State. Annual wages above the national average were also paid in the Management of Companies & Enterprises, Utilities, and Retail Trade industry sectors. However, most of the eighteen industry sectors measured in the state paid annual wages below the United States average in 2003. For example, Rhode Island's Finance & Insurance businesses paid their workers just 83 percent of the national industry sector average, or \$53,872 compared to \$64,956 nationally. A similar gap existed in Transportation & Warehousing, where the \$30,815 paid to Ocean State workers was well below the United States average of \$37,436. The industry sector with the lowest state-to-nation earnings ratio was Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, which paid an annual average wage of \$20,563 in Rhode Island, or 76 percent of that paid by similar businesses nationwide.



Annual Average Private Sector Wage in the New England States, 2003



Annual Average Private Sector Wages by Industry Sector, 2003

	<u>US</u>	<u>RI</u>	<u>CT</u>	<u>ME</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>VT</u>
Total Private	\$ 37,508	\$ 34,865	\$ 48,935	\$ 30,229	\$ 46,569	\$ 37,685	\$ 31,572
Natural Resources & Mining	\$ 33,729	\$ 28,706	\$ 28,326	\$ 25,581	\$ 37,973	\$ 28,169	\$ 26,841
Construction	\$ 39,509	\$ 43,480	\$ 48,046	\$ 33,594	\$ 51,501	\$ 42,061	\$ 33,416
Manufacturing	\$ 45,916	\$ 39,152	\$ 58,051	\$ 40,237	\$ 58,363	\$ 48,237	\$ 44,256
Wholesale Trade	\$ 50,835	\$ 49,711	\$ 66,464	\$ 42,612	\$ 64,353	\$ 60,426	\$ 44,233
Retail Trade	\$ 23,804	\$ 23,845	\$ 27,873	\$ 21,343	\$ 26,086	\$ 25,053	\$ 22,395
Transportation & Warehousing	\$ 37,436	\$ 30,815	\$ 36,906	\$ 30,451	\$ 36,250	\$ 31,243	\$ 31,639
Utilities	\$ 68,651	\$ 70,206	\$ 80,052	\$ 53,927	\$ 81,540	\$ 68,926	\$ 68,664
Information	\$ 58,002	\$ 52,781	\$ 57,480	\$ 38,408	\$ 68,222	\$ 56,188	\$ 37,230
Finance & Insurance	\$ 64,956	\$ 53,872	\$ 104,235	\$ 45,438	\$ 87,960	\$ 60,463	\$ 49,853
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$ 35,054	\$ 33,275	\$ 42,956	\$ 26,973	\$ 44,808	\$ 36,518	\$ 27,530
Professional & Technical Services	\$ 59,877	\$ 52,718	\$ 70,820	\$ 43,019	\$ 74,863	\$ 57,697	\$ 47,283
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	\$ 72,270	\$ 83,882	\$ 105,496	\$ 52,413	\$ 67,844	\$ 71,839	\$ 59,466
Administrative & Waste Services	\$ 26,056	\$ 23,041	\$ 30,201	\$ 23,613	\$ 31,678	\$ 29,468	\$ 23,608
Educational Services	\$ 34,418	\$ 37,097	\$ 43,772	\$ 31,230	\$ 44,607	\$ 36,189	\$ 31,056
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$ 35,167	\$ 33,878	\$ 38,981	\$ 31,270	\$ 39,690	\$ 36,288	\$ 30,314
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	\$ 27,016	\$ 20,563	\$ 23,583	\$ 16,866	\$ 28,973	\$ 17,211	\$ 16,449
Accommodation & Food Services	\$ 14,228	\$ 14,108	\$ 16,031	\$ 13,123	\$ 16,688	\$ 14,754	\$ 15,062
Other Services	\$ 24,348	\$ 22,749	\$ 26,811	\$ 21,857	\$ 25,385	\$ 26,555	\$ 23,680